

Approved 02/17/2022

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Town Hall Basement Meeting Room. Select Board Members present were Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin, Roger Barham and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. Also present was School Board Member Gordon Muench. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting is live broadcast by Jose Rivera Hernandez from FCTV and livestreamed on YouTube.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All meetings held in the basement meet room are now being livestreamed on YouTube. Sign up to be a subscriber and get the link and other information from the homepage of the Town's website or from the FCTV social media page.
2. Rebroadcasts of the Public Budget Hearing and both Deliberative Sessions are available on FCTV rebroadcast as well as their Vimeo site.
3. All Town Offices are closed on Monday February 21 in observance of President's Day. There are no delays in trash collections that week.
4. The Parks & Recreation Commission is doing a winter snow sculpture contest. Check the website home page news, the Commission's Facebook page, the Newsletter or FCTV for more information.
5. Kindergarten Registration is underway at Ellis School for the September 2022 school year start. This information is available on the school website and FCTV bulletin board.
6. Abatement applications for the 2021 tax year are due by Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the Select Board's Office.
7. A virtual Candidate's Night will be held on February 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm. It will be broadcast on FCTV and livestreamed.
8. Any candidate wishing to record up to a 10-minute spot for FCTV should contact Bill Millios or Heidi Carlson to schedule.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday evening and has set dates for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 10. They will do May Baskets once again. They are also looking at doing an adult coffee & create program. They are considering holding the Town-wide Yard Sale on Saturday May 21st.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 and February 8, 2022 public meeting as written was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

A motion to approve the non-public minutes of February 8, 2022 as written was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS - times subject to change based on the flow of the meeting.

At 6:35 pm Pete LaChapelle from Waste Management came before the Board to discuss Waste Management's proposed increase in trash pick-up. He provided an informational handout to the Board

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and reviewed salient points. The overview impacts of the cost increase are due to inflation, which they are quoting as up to 7 ½ percent which is a high. Their key increase affected all aspects in their operations including vehicle upkeep, steel increase, labor shortages, driver shortages due to lack of training. The current contract negotiation has only a 3% percent increase, but he said no one could forecast this due to Covid. He noted Section 15 of the Town's contract has an "unusual cost clause" with a 60-day notification. He feels a little bit of a jump now would be better than a large impact next contract negotiation, or than companies going out of business. He is proposing a 7 % increase in the collection pick up rate. It is noted that WM has also proposed a tipping fee increase of 5% to the SRRDD 53B Committee. Cordes thanked LaChapelle for bring this information and the Board will discuss this and get back to him with a decision by April 15th.

7:00 pm Public Input – none.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. The maintenance job descriptions have been sent to Mike Malloy who has offered to help finalize them. Cordes will get back with his suggested changes.
2. The 2021 Town Report went to print on Monday and is now fully posted to the website. The February Newsletter (Town Meeting edition) also went to print on Monday and will be out in the mail to Fremont addresses tomorrow.
3. Mask Ordinance: Carlson reported there are currently no mandatory use of masks required in Town Buildings in Epping (Mask Recommended), Northwood, Sandown, Brentwood (only requires masks for employees that have a confirmed exposure. Symptomatic employees must stay home until a test is taken and may return to work with a negative test when they are feeling well enough to do so). Nottingham rescinded theirs on Monday night at the Selectmen's Meeting. Auburn does not have one, but the Public Library does. As of Wednesday February 9, Ellis School is at "mask optional" status. The Board discussed the data trends leading away from mandatory and more toward recommendations. Barham spoke that people are not adhering to it and go to being recommended with social distancing expected. They discussed the lack of merit in a policy that isn't effective. Janvrin suggested lifting the mandate and using "highly recommended" language in our postings. Barham moved to rescind the mask ordinance and post recommendations regarding recommended mask use effective immediately. This was seconded by Janvrin with unanimous approval 3-0. It was discussed that Carlson will update the postings as soon as possible.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Resignation acknowledgement letter to Brian McGinn (resigned from the Budget Committee)
- b. Sign one copy of the finalized Return Check Policy with correct acceptance date of 02/03/2022
- c. Chair to sign NH DOT permit for one-way traffic request on Danville Road for the hours of spring bulky day on Saturday May 14, 2022
- d. Chair to sign NH DOT permit for Main Street traffic closure for 30-45 minutes on Sunday morning May 29, 2022 for the Memorial Day Parade

A motion to approve and sign the above Consent Agenda items was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin with unanimous approval 3-0.

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2. Board members reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence to include: Cable Revolving Fund Deposit of \$9,341.48 for the 2021-Q4 franchise fees; correspondence from Pete LaChapelle at Waste Management, Plan Reviews for the PB North Road Scenic Road hearing, ZBA request for parcel 01-071.001; letters from WM to the SRRDD 53B Committee relative to the 5% increase proposal. The 53B leadership is requesting a response from all the Towns in the District.
3. There is a vacancy on the Budget Committee created by Brian McGinn's resignation in January. This will be posted for letters of interest to be sent to the Budget Committee for review at their next meeting (likely April 2022). The Committee makes an appointment for one year until the March 2023 election.
4. Board members reviewed the Deliberative Session Minutes for final posting.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. The two new policies (Stale Check and Return Check) have been posted to the website.
2. Auditors will be in Fremont all next week doing the 2021 fiscal year audit field work.
3. There is no further information on the utility cases tonight.

The Board returned to further discussion on the Waste Management proposal. Cordes felt the change in the trend may not still be an issue by January of 2024 when a new contract may be in place. It is difficult to forecast that far away. Also, members commented that looking for more money is one thing but when they have a good year, they don't reimburse any funds. Cordes will do some research on some other industry trends and bring this discussion back.

At 7:25 pm Janvrin moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91:3 II (c) to discuss a personnel matter. Cordes seconded and the roll call vote was unanimous 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Select Board Administrative Assistant

The Board's non-public session began at approximately 7:30 pm when the public had left the meeting room.

At 8:00 pm motion was made by Janvrin to return to public session. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

The Board further discussed the Waste Management proposition and what that funding would look like. There is some real concern about their request.

The Board is expecting to see some further reports from Chief Butler next week.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall.

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm by Janvrin. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator